

Author: BARRETT FOUNTOS at EH-07
Date: 5/29/97 4:30 PM
Priority: Normal

CC: SUE ANDERSON
CC: NEIL BARSS
CC: TOM BELL
CC: MOHANDAS BHAT
CC: FRANK HAWKINS
CC: EDWARD PODOLAK
CC: JOSEPH WEISS
CC: ELIZABETH WHITE
CC: JOY WILSON
TO: RUTH NETA

Subject: Re[2]: Response to Request for Info

----- Message Contents -----

Ruth,

My response to your two questions are below:

1. I was unable to find any information on the amount of plutonium dispersed. It may be classified. However, it is known that the fissile material from two thermonuclear weapons burned and contaminated 558 acres. If one knew how much class Y plutonium (Pu-239 + Pu-240) is in a weapon, I guess one could compute the amount of plutonium dispersed as plutonium oxide by multiplying by two. Information is available as to the ambient air concentrations and surface alpha contamination at the time of the accident. Let me know if you would like to see the references.

2. Between 1966-1990, 800 individuals have been studied. The lung counter failed to detect any plutonium higher than the detection limit of 814 Bq. As a result of the accident, at least 45 people sustained internal contamination from inhalation as measured by plutonium levels in urine. The committed effective dose equivalents received by this group are between 20 and 200 mSv. This was calculated based on an acute exposures to plutonium during the accident or during the days immediately after the accident, i.e., prior to site remediation.

For those 10 who moved to Palomares after the accident and who may have been internally contaminated because of their participation in agricultural activities (the cause of the exposure is unknown), the estimated committed effective dose equivalents are between 35 and 180 mSv.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Barry

----- Reply Separator -----

Subject: Re: Response to Request for Info
Author: RUTH NETA at EH-07
Date: 5/29/97 4:28 PM

Dear Ruth,

Attached is a WP6 file with the information you requested re:
Palomares for your presentation concerning human subjects review.

Barry

Barry, THANKS FOR YOUR SUCH PROMPT RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST FOR THE
INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN MY PRESENTATION AT THE (INTERNAL) DOE - IRB
WORKING GROUP MEETING (IN JUNE). 2 QUESTIONS CONCERNING SPECIFICS.

- 1) DO WE KNOW HOW MUCH PLUTONIUM (TOTAL) WAS DISPERSED?
- 2) THE 10 PEOPLE THAT HAVE PLUTONIUM BODY DEPOSITION, IS IT KNOWN HOW MUCH?

THANKS, RUTH